



PRESS RELEASE
(For immediate release)

19 May 2024

Attention: All Media Houses

FALSE ALLEGATIONS IN RESPECT OF MR PETER SHAAMA, CHIEF ELECTORAL AND REFERENDA OFFICER (CEO), BEING PART OF THE SWAPO PARTY DELEGATION TO CHINA

1. The Commission has learned with dismay of recent allegations circulating in the social media alleging that Mr Peter Shaama, the Chief Electoral and Referenda Officer (CEO), was part of a SWAPO Party delegation that recently visited China. The false circulation further alleged that Mr Shaama went with the ruling party to China to prepare the ballot papers for the Presidential and National Assembly elections scheduled to take place in November 2024.
2. The Commission refutes these allegations in the strongest terms. They are completely false and unfounded. The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) operates independently, and our primary focus is to ensure that we conduct and manage electoral and referenda processes for Namibian citizens in a free, fair, transparent and credible manner, with a singular view to uphold electoral democracy in compliance with relevant provisions of the Namibian Constitution read together with the Electoral Act no. 5 of 2014, as amended.
3. The Commission, with due diligence, follows the provisions of the Public Procurement Act, No.15 of 2015, in procuring goods and services required in the execution of its mandate, including the printing of ballot papers. Once the public procurement processes have been completed, authorised representatives of registered political parties, organisations and associations are informed and invited to observe the production and printing of ballot papers. That stage is yet to be reached in our electoral calendar. We underscore that the Commission is an independent body, and at no stage will any of its officials be part of political party delegations.
4. The integrity of the electoral process is of utmost importance to us as a Commission, and we are committed to upholding the democratic principles of our nation. We therefore urge the public to refrain from spreading false and malicious information that has the potential of casting aspersion over the integrity of the electoral processes, and the upcoming national and presidential elections. Let us continue to uphold the values of sound democracy in Namibia.

End

Issued by:

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Chairperson of the ECN

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